

A new *Gerontha* (Lepidoptera : Tineidae) from Japan

Sigeru MORIUTI

Entomological Laboratory, College of Agriculture, University of Osaka Prefecture, Sakai, Osaka, 591 Japan.

Summary

Gerontha akahatii sp. n. is described from male specimens collected in the island of Isigakizima, the south-western frontier of Japan.

The tineid genus *Gerontha* has been represented in Japan by only one species, i.e. *G. borea* MORIUTI, 1977, from the Tusima Islands. In the present paper, a second Japanese species of the genus is described as new to science. The material was collected by Y. ARITA in Isigakizima, which is a small island with an area of 223.4 km² and is situated in lat. 24°1-37' N. and long. 124°4-20' E. (Fig. 3).

Gerontha akahatii sp. n. (Figs. 1-2)

HOLOTYPE : ♂, Japan, Ryukyus, Yaeyama Is., Isigakizima I., Mt Omotodake, 9.V.1978 (Y. ARITA), preserved in the collection of the Entomological Laboratory, University of Osaka Prefecture.

PARATYPES : 2 ♂, sama data as holotype except, 5.V.1978, in coll. Ent. Lab., Univ. Osaka Prefect.

♂. 18-20 mm. Head white, largely mixed with grey. Antenna ochreous, annulated with brown ; scape ochreous. Labial palpus, including brushy tuft, purplish-fuscous ; third segment ochreous, marked outwardly with dark brown at base and middle ; top of brushy tuft nearly white. Thorax off-white, suffused with grey. Fore- and mid legs purplish-fuscous ; fore tarsus off-white on posterior third of first segment and on segments two to four ; mid tarsus ringed whitish at apex of each of segments one to four. Hind leg pale grey ; tibia with pale greyish-ochreous long hairs above ; all spurs tinged with purplish-brown ; tarsus whitish, more or less suffused with grey. Abdomen not studied.

Forewing with R3 connate with a long common stalk of R4 and R5, M3 and Cu1a short-stalked from angle, and Cu1b from a little before angle ; (all the

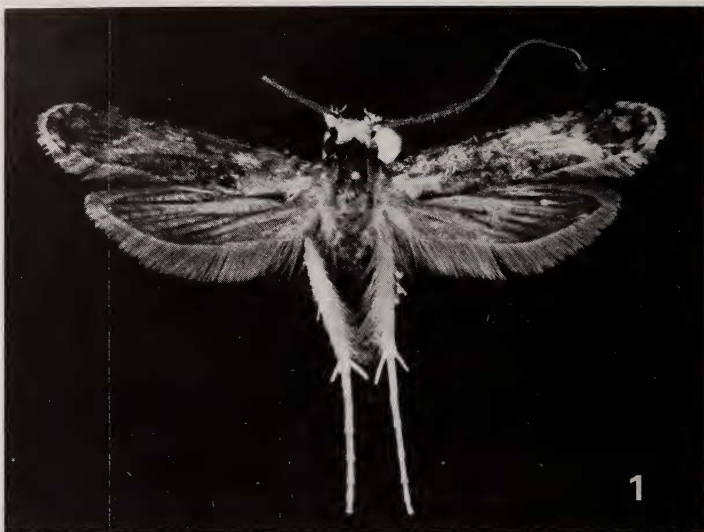


Fig. 1. *Gerontha akahatii* sp. n., ♂, paratype ($\times 4.5$).

specimens are in more or less rubbed condition); off-white, nearly wholly suffused with pale brown to dark brown except for a broad, very oblique band-like area from beneath costa beyond middle to tornus; costa spotted with blackish-brown throughout; six conspicuous large tufts of pale brown raised scales, viz., three on upper margin of cell before base and at quarter and before middle of wing-length, one beneath fold before one quarter of wing-length, one in cell at a little before middle of wing-length, and one above dorsum at middle of wing-length; cilia (imperfect) very pale whitish-grey, with an interrupted blackish-brown subbasal line, and on dorsum greyish except at base. Hindwing with M1 and M2 separated, M3 from angle, Cu1a from five-sixths, and Cu1b from a little beyond middle; not transparent; scaled except for a small hyaline space at base between upper margin of cell and 1A + 2A; pale grey, with a purplish gloss in some lights; cell whitish; costal area (from base to end of Sc + R1 and as far as upper margin of cell) densely scaled, creamy; dorsal area between 1A + 2A and dorsal margin suffused with brownish scales; veins thickly streaked with rather dark brown; cilia grey, tinged with ochre.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2): Uncus produced posteriorly into a short median process, of which the apex is bifid. Gnathos with ventral plate small, inverted-cupped and not set with spinules, the top being rounded. Valve

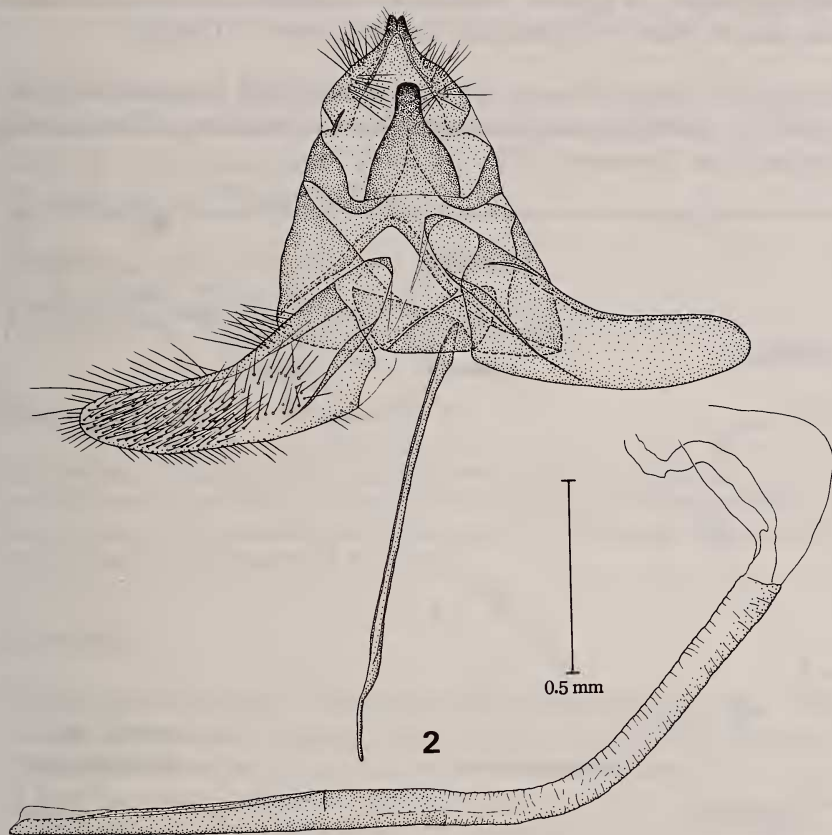


Fig. 2. *Gerontha akahattii* sp. n., male genitalia, holotype.

simple, with distal margin rounded. Saccus slender. Aedeagus very long, twice as long as saccus, and bending at about basal third; cornutus invisible.

♀. Unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Japan (Ryukyus).

REMARKS. This new species is most closely allied in superficial appearance and male genitalia to the Celebesian *G. dolichophallica* MORIUTI, of which only the male is known, but may be easily distinguished from the latter, in the forewing, by the vein R3 and the common stalk of veins R4 and R5 connate instead of separating, and, in the genitalia, by the uncus with bifid

median process, the gnathos with shorter arm and much smaller ventral plate, and the valva with distal part rounded instead of triangular.

ETYMOLOGY. This Loochooan species is named after Honkawara OYAKE-AKAHATI (?-1500) who was the doughty hero of Isigakizima Island and the chieftain of the Yaeyamas.

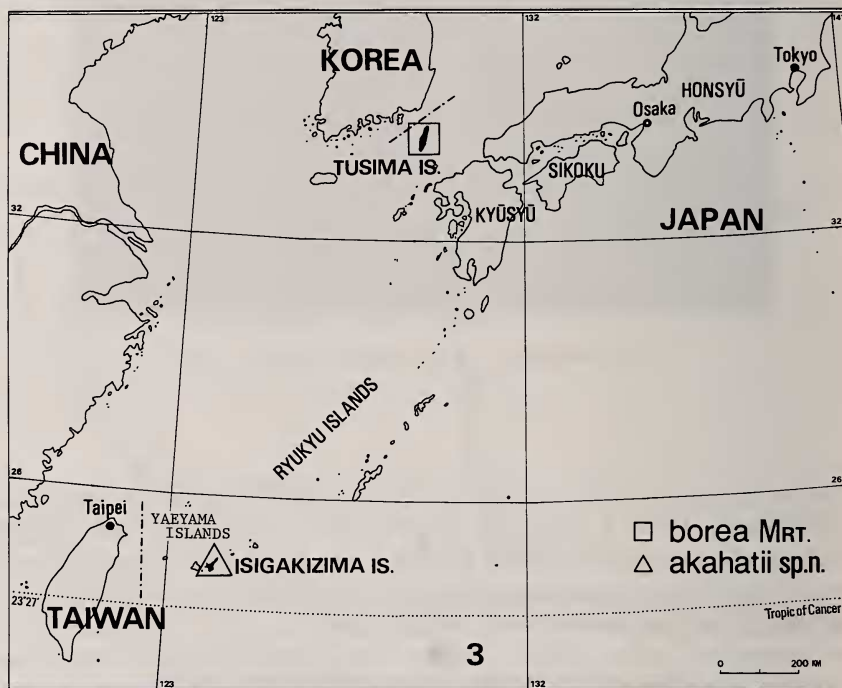


Fig. 3. Geographical distribution of the species of *Gerontha* in Japan.

Acknowledgement

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References

- MORIUTI, S., 1977. Two new species of Microlepidoptera from Japan : a *Gerontha* (Tineidae) and a *Telphusa* (Gelechiidae). *Tinea* 10 : 131-136.
- MORIUTI, S., 1989. Eleven new species of *Gerontha* from Southeast Asia, with notes on others (Lepidoptera : Tineidae). *Microlep. Thai.* (2) : 87-112.